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written in a compact, lucid style, and will be peculiarly serviceable to those who desire to post themselves in the main points of particular episodes and periods without wading through lengthened details. The chapters and paragraphs are so arranged as to show the subject matter at a glance, and the eye and memory are further assisted by systematic side notes. There are no foot-notes or references whatever to distract the attention from the text. In these respects the plan of the author has been carried out very successfully, and although the advanced scholar may regret that some important matters are disposed of quite summarily, he must recollect that the attempt to do full justice to every one of the vast multitude of topics ranging themselves under the comprehensive title of the work would have extended it to several volumes.

The contents are arranged under three great divisions—the ancient, the mediæval, and the modern eras. The first embraces four distinct periods—the Apostolic, thence to Constantine, thence to Gregory I., thence to Charlemagne. The second includes three distinct periods and brings us down to the Reformation. The third deals with the Reformation and carries us through the various phases of Church life to our own day. A considerable space is devoted to Christian missions, and also to the present doctrinal divisions of Christendom.

## VII.

### DANTON IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

THE average American reader cares about as much for a study of Danton\* as he would for a eulogy of the Man in the Moon; but fortunately Mr. Gronlund has not confined himself to Danton's biography. He has attempted to deduce from the French Revolution teachings that may be of use to us in the United States to-day. The book is well written and very readable, and the author stands far above most of the economic writers of the present day in the sobriety of his diction and the fidelity of his historical statements.

When Mr. Gronlund deals with the French character and French theories of government, his propositions are generally sound; but when he treats of our American Revolution he fails to grasp the full and true import of that event—both in the causes which led to its outbreak and the ideas which influenced the American people at that time. He ignores also the propulsion which our success gave to the outbreking of the French Revolution, and he is blind to the total inability of the French people to comprehend the properties and principles underlying our system of government.

The awful atrocities of the French Revolution all civilized peoples must ever regard with horror, yet they were the natural and inevitable results following the absence of checks and balances in the French Revolutionary system, where a law was proposed, and adopted, and executed in the space of a few minutes. No time was given there for sober second thought—no supervising second or third power was asked to approve or disapprove. The heat of passion, the hysteria of fear, the delirium of enthusiasm, were the influences among which laws were made and deeds done at which the world still shudders. Mr. Gronlund shows clearly these defects in the political system of the French Revolution, but he does not seem to appreciate the causes from which they resulted, nor to clearly comprehend that very similar results might follow in the United States if our system of checks and balances was once broken down.

It is the fashion nowadays to eulogize earnestness, and Mr. Gronlund is not

\* "Ça Ire ! or Danton in the French Revolution. A Study." By Lawrence Gronlund.

behind the age in this respect—but our insane asylums are crowded with intensely earnest people. Danton and his associates were earnest—but so were the Chicago Anarchists. In fact, earnestness, if not linked with soberness of thought, word, and deed, is little better than insanity; and there are scenes in the history of Danton's time that are the very insanity of earnestness. It is a very fortunate trait in the Anglo-Saxon character to admire pluck, enterprise, and energy, but to distrust earnestness run wild into enthusiasm.

It is the fashion also to leave out of consideration the deep religious sentiments which prevailed at the time of our revolution; yet all history teaches that the religious idea—no matter whether Christian or Pagan, so long as it be live—is one of the strongest binding social forces in existence. Yet Mr. Gronlund leaves entirely out of consideration the religious factor of the French Revolution. The word does not even occur in the excellent index that completes his book; it is as absent from the book as the thing was from the French Revolutionists.

Yet, notwithstanding this fault-finding, we think "*Ça Ira*" to be a book well worth a perusal. The French Revolution has been so often presented to us in a series of kaleidoscopic pictures that it is both interesting and instructive to meet a philosophic study of it; and the style of composition and method of arrangement make Mr. Gronlund's book very readable.

## VIII.

### A VOYAGE TO THE CARIBBEES.

MR. PATON tells the story of his five or six weeks' voyage among the Caribbean islands very pleasantly,\* and contrives to weave in with his graphic, descriptive sketches many facts concerning the history, population, trade, and social condition of the places he visited in the course of his tour in this interesting region. The book is therefore not only interesting but valuable. Part of it is a reprint of letters furnished to a New York daily newspaper, but a large portion of it is here published for the first time, and this latter portion, it is fair to presume, is mainly due to enlargements and additions made after a careful study of historical and official records. The voyage was made in a trading steamship, the "*Barraconta*," carrying also a few passengers, and making many stoppages at different ports, discharging and receiving cargo. A few days at most, and often but a few hours, could be given to each island visited, but these were used to the best advantage, and the result is exceedingly creditable to the author's powers of observation and rapid generalization. For any one proposing to make a trip to the region in question, or to any portion of it, whether for health, pleasure, or business, the book will prove a welcome and useful companion and guide. One of the strongest impressions produced on the author by this tour was the gradual disappearance of white people and their descendants from these tropical lands and the rapid increase of the blacks and Hindoo coolies. "In the future, it may be in the near future,—certainly at some time more or less remote,—the Africans, who were brought unwilling captives into this land of bondage, and the Hindoos, who owe their exportation from the land of their fathers to the imagined necessity for cheaper instead of more intelligent labor, will find themselves left in possession of regions no longer profitably to be cultivated." Mr. Paton thinks that this subject may well engage the attention of ethnologists and statesmen, and he points signifi-

\*"*Down the Islands; A Voyage to the Caribbees.*" By William Agnew Paton. With illustrations from drawings by M. J. Burns. Charles Scribner's Sons.